

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS.



# Annual Report

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR

### THE YEARS 1944 and 1945.

---

FRANK HAUXWELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health  
and School Medical Officer.

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WOOD, WESTWORTH & CO., LIMITED, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS,  
HARDSHAW STREET.







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## INDEX

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	<i>Page</i>
GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS .....	5
METEOROLOGY .....	10
INFECTIOUS DISEASES .....	11
LABORATORY WORK .....	16
TUBERCULOSIS .....	16
VENEREAL DISEASES .....	22
NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT .....	23
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE .....	23
ORTHOPAEDICS .....	32
WELFARE OF THE BLIND .....	33
POOR LAW MEDICAL RELIEF .....	34
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD .....	34
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA .....	41
HOUSING .....	46



TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE  
COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report on the health of St. Helens for the years 1944 and 1945.

As in the case of the previous Report, it has again been found more convenient on this occasion to present one Report covering both these years. It is hoped, however, to return to Annual Reports for future years.

The following statement shows some of the principal statistical rates during the past five years.

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Birth rate per 1,000 of civilian population .....	18.6	17.7	19.8	20.5	20.3
Death rate per 1,000 of civilian population	11.4	10.6	13.0	11.3	11.3
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births ..... ..	71.2	64.7	72.5	57.5	60.1
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 total births .....	0.98	4.31	3.40	3.33	3.36
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 10,000 of civilian population ..... ..	6.7	7.3	7.6	6.1	7.1

It will be seen that the increased birth rate first apparent in 1943 was continued during both 1944 and 1945, that for 1944 being the highest recorded since 1930.

The death rate for each of the years 1944 and 1945 was 11.3 per thousand of the population. On only two occasions during the last 25 years has the death rate been lower.

The Infant Mortality rate for 1944 was the second lowest ever recorded for the Borough, and the rate for 1945 the third lowest.

In regard to the prevalence of infectious diseases, there was a sharp increase in the number of cases of Measles and Scarlet Fever during 1944, but this declined again in 1945. The incidence of Diphtheria during both years was negligible, being the lowest ever recorded for the Borough.

The mortality figures for Tuberculosis for 1945 show a rise in comparison with those for 1944, which rather tends to correspond with the high incidence of notifications of pulmonary infections in 1943. The incidence of new cases of Pulmonary Diseases notified during the years 1944 and 1945 shows a gradual decrease, however, since the rise during the war years to a peak in 1943.



For the successful carrying on of the work of the Department I am indebted to the ever willing and cheerful assistance of every member of the staff. I would also take this opportunity of thanking members of the Council for their help and kindly consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.



## I.—GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

	1944	1945
Area (Acres) .....	7,950	7,950
Estimated Civilian Population mid-year .....	98,410	99,150
Rateable Value .....	£490,873	£491,255
Product of a penny rate .....	£1,918	£1,909

### STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1944 :

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births :—Legitimate .....	989	946	1,935
Illegitimate .....	39	44	83
Totals .....	1028	990	2,018

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population ..... 20.5

Still Births :—M. 48, F. 38 ; Total : 86.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..... 40.9

Deaths :—M. 611, F. 504 ; Total : 1,115.

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population ..... 11.3

Number of women dying from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
From sepsis .....	2	0.95
From other maternal causes .....	5	2.38
Totals .....	7	3.33

Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate .....	56	51	107
Illegitimate .....	3	6	9
Totals .....	59	57	116

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	57.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	55.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	108.4

Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	4
„ Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	2
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	21
„ Tuberculosis .....	60



### STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1945 :

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births :—Legitimate .....	984	887	1,871
Illegitimate .....	76	67	143
Totals .....	1,060	954	2,014

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population ..... 20.3

Still Births :—M. 31, F. 39 ; Total 70.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..... 33.6

Deaths :—M. 595, F. 521 ; Total 1,116.

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population ..... 11.3

Number of women dying from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
From sepsis .....	1	0.48
From other maternal causes .....	6	2.88
Totals .....	7	3.36

Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate .....	60	48	108
Illegitimate .....	10	3	13
Totals .....	70	51	121

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	60.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	57.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	90.9

Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	—
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	17
„ Tuberculosis .....	71

**POPULATION.**—The Registrar General's estimate of population for mid-year 1944 was 98,410, and for 1945, 99,150. The figure for 1944 is the lowest recorded since 1918, and shows a decrease of 8,790 from the mid-1939 figure of 107,200. The fall in population which had occurred during the war years, due to enlistments in the Services and other movements of population, appeared, however, to have reached its limit in 1944 and a slight upward trend towards normal is seen in the increase to 99,150 in the mid-year estimate for 1945. The excess of births over deaths in 1944 was 903, and 898 in 1945.



**BIRTHS.**—The birth rate (20.5 per thousand of the estimated population) for 1944 was not only the highest for the war, but was also the highest recorded since 1930. For the year 1945 there was a slight decrease to 20.3 per thousand of the population. The rate for England and Wales for 1944 was 17.6, and for 1945, 16.1.

**DEATHS.**—The death rate for each of the two years 1944/45 was 11.3 per thousand of the population, and showed an improvement on the year 1943, when the rate reached 13.0 per thousand of the population, and on only two occasions during the last 25 years has the death rate been lower. The rate for England and Wales as a whole for 1944 was 11.6 and for 1945 11.4.

**Causes of Death.**—Figures relating to the causes of, and ages at, death are given in Table 1.

**Deaths from Tuberculosis.**—Tuberculosis was the cause of 5.4% of all deaths that occurred during 1944, and 6.4% in 1945. The corresponding percentages in 1942 and 1943 were 6.9 and 5.9 respectively. The ages at which these deaths occurred are shown in Table 1.

**Malignant Diseases.**—The deaths from these diseases during the past five years were as follows :—

AGE	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	1	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	1
15—45	7	6	16	9	19
45—65	66	66	57	69	66
65 and over	65	71	60	62	55
Totals	138	144	133	140	141
Percentage of the total deaths	11.8	13.42	10.32	12.55	12.64
Death rate per 1,000 of population	1.34	1.42	1.34	1.42	1.43

There would appear to be no relationship between the incidence of malignant diseases and industrial processes in St. Helens.

There were no alterations in treatment facilities during 1944 and 1945, and no approved scheme under the Cancer Act, 1939, has yet been adopted.

**Infant Mortality.**—During 1944 there were 116 deaths of infants under one year of age, corresponding to an infant mortality rate of 57.5 per 1,000 births. During 1945 there were 121 deaths and the infant mortality rate was 60.1. The rate for England and Wales for both years was 46.

Further reference to this subject is made in the Maternity and Child Welfare Section.



**Table 1 A.**  
Causes of, and ages at, death during 1944.

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	At Ages					
			0—1	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—
All Causes	M F	611 504	59 57	13 7	12 12	57 69	181 130	289 229
Typhoid and parat. fevers	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Cerebro-spinal fever	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Scarlet Fever	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Whooping Cough	M F	— 2	— 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Diphtheria	M F	1 —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —
Tub. of resp. sys.	M F	26 22	— —	1 —	— —	10 18	13 4	2 —
Other forms of tuberculosis	M F	4 8	— 1	3 2	— 1	1 2	— 1	— 1
Syphilitic diseases	M F	4 2	— —	— —	— —	— 2	1 —	3 —
Influenza	M F	7 7	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	2 1	3 6
Measles	M F	1 3	1 1	— 1	— 1	— —	— —	— —
Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph.	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Ac. inf. enceph.	M F	2 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	1 —
Cancer of buc. cav. and Oesoph. (M.), uterus (F.)	M F	8 11	— —	— —	— —	— 4	2 5	6 2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	M F	18 14	— —	— —	— —	2 1	9 5	7 8
Cancer of breast	M F	— 11	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— 6	— 4
Cancer of all other sites	M F	50 28	— —	— —	— —	1 —	30 12	19 16
Diabetes	M F	5 5	— —	— —	— —	1 —	3 3	1 2
Intracranial vascular lesions	M F	47 51	— 1	— —	— —	1 1	10 15	36 34
Heart Disease	M F	112 109	— —	— —	— —	8 12	44 43	60 54
Other diseases of circ. system	M F	18 10	— —	— —	— —	— 1	1 1	17 8
Bronchitis	M F	50 20	1 2	— —	— 1	2 —	19 3	28 14
Pneumonia	M F	31 28	11 2	3 3	2 2	4 7	7 6	4 8
Other respiratory diseases	M F	8 7	— —	— —	1 —	1 1	6 3	— 3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	M F	13 1	— —	— —	— —	2 —	8 —	3 1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	M F	13 8	13 8	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Appendicitis	M F	2 1	— —	— —	1 —	1 —	— 1	— —
Other digestive disorders	M F	11 17	1 3	1 1	— 2	1 2	4 6	4 3
Nephritis	M F	18 12	— —	— —	— —	3 —	5 4	10 8



Table 1 A—continued.

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	At Ages					
			0—1	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—
Puer. and post-abort. sepsis .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
Other maternal causes .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	5	—	—	—	5	—	—
Prem. birth .....	M	12	12	—	—	—	—	—
	F	16	16	—	—	—	—	—
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. ....	M	17	16	—	—	1	—	—
	F	19	18	—	1	—	—	—
Suicide .....	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Road traffic acc. ....	M	9	—	—	2	3	1	3
	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other violent causes .....	M	27	1	1	2	5	7	11
	F	9	1	—	—	3	—	5
All other causes .....	M	96	3	4	2	9	7	71
	F	74	2	—	4	7	9	52
Totals .....		1115	116	20	24	126	311	516

Table 1 B.  
Causes of, and ages at, death during 1945.

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	At Ages					
			0—1	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—
All Causes .....	M	595	70	9	12	64	185	255
	F	521	51	9	4	70	119	268
Typhoid and parat. fevers .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tub. of resp. sys. ....	M	28	—	—	—	15	11	2
	F	30	—	—	1	29	—	—
Other forms of tuberculosis .....	M	8	1	3	—	2	1	1
	F	5	2	—	—	2	—	1
Syphilitic diseases .....	M	3	—	—	—	—	2	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza .....	M	5	—	—	—	—	2	3
	F	5	2	—	—	2	—	1
Measles .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac .polio-myel. and polio-enceph. ....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
Ac. inf. enceph. ....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cancer of buc. cav. and Oesoph. (M.), uterus (F.) .....	M	12	—	—	—	—	6	6
	F	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Cancer of stomach and duodenum .....	M	23	—	—	—	4	12	7
	F	14	—	—	—	3	7	4
Cancer of breast .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	11	—	—	—	1	8	2
Cancer of all other sites .....	M	51	—	—	1	7	19	24
	F	28	—	—	—	4	12	12



Table 1 B—continued.

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	At Ages					
			0—1	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—
Diabetes .....	M	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F	10	—	—	—	—	5	5
Intracranial vascular lesions .....	M	29	—	—	—	1	9	19
	F	55	—	—	—	1	18	36
Heart Disease .....	M	116	—	—	—	13	39	64
	F	97	—	—	—	4	29	64
Other diseases of circ. system .....	M	13	—	—	—	1	5	7
	F	10	—	—	—	—	2	8
Bronchitis .....	M	76	2	—	—	7	40	27
	F	41	1	—	—	2	8	30
Pneumonia .....	M	35	15	3	2	1	4	10
	F	34	9	5	1	1	9	9
Other respiratory diseases .....	M	7	—	—	—	—	6	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .....	M	8	—	—	—	—	8	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years .....	M	12	12	—	—	—	—	—
	F	5	5	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis .....	M	6	—	1	2	1	2	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other digestive disorders .....	M	12	1	—	2	1	5	3
	F	13	—	—	—	—	3	10
Nephritis .....	M	9	—	—	—	1	4	4
	F	9	—	—	—	1	2	6
Puer. and post-abort. sepsis .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other maternal causes .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	6	—	—	—	6	—	—
Prem. birth .....	M	17	17	—	—	—	—	—
	F	12	12	—	—	—	—	—
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. ....	M	20	19	1	—	—	—	—
	F	14	13	—	—	—	1	—
Suicide .....	M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	1	1	—
Road traffic acc. ....	M	6	—	—	1	2	—	3
	F	5	—	—	—	2	1	2
Other violent causes .....	M	13	1	1	1	1	3	6
	F	11	2	1	—	1	2	5
All other causes .....	M	83	2	—	3	6	6	66
	F	94	4	3	1	9	5	72
Totals .....		1116	121	18	16	134	304	523

II.—METEOROLOGY.

The total rainfall for 1944, as measured at the Victoria Park Observatory, was 36.53 inches, and as recorded at the Eccleston Hill Waterworks 36.19 inches. The corresponding figures for 1945 were 32.36 inches at Victoria Park and 29.45 inches at Eccleston Hill.

The sunshine recorder at Victoria Park recorded 1,002 hours of sunshine in 1944, the greatest duration on any one day being 14 hours, on the 29th May.

Owing to a breakdown in recording arrangements, it is regretted that no reliable figures are available for the year 1945.



III.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**General Observations.**—The number of cases of infectious diseases notified each year since 1936 is shown in Table 2. During 1944 there was a sharp increase over the previous year in the number of cases of Measles and Scarlet Fever. The incidence of Diphtheria, however, was negligible, even compared with 1943, when the lowest recorded incidence for 11 years had been noted.

During 1945 the position regarding Measles and Scarlet Fever was much more satisfactory, there being a sharp decrease in the number of cases of both diseases. This was more marked in the case of Measles. In 1945 the incidence of Whooping Cough was the lowest for 9 years, and a still further drop in the number of cases of Diphtheria showed the incidence to be the lowest ever recorded for the Borough, only 21 cases occurring during the year.

Table 3 shows the total number of cases notified during each of the years 1944 and 1945, the total number of deaths which occurred, and the number of cases admitted to the Corporation Isolation Hospital.

Table 4 gives the age distribution of the cases notified, and Table 1 the age distribution of the deaths which occurred.

Table 2.

Notification of Infectious Diseases received during the under-mentioned years.

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Smallpox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	590	671	577	995	221	186	146	322	661	530
Diphtheria .....	482	463	437	479	287	252	255	120	29	21
Measles .....	1569	992	1776	265	3057	601	3066	269	1716	530
Whooping Cough .....	102	880	500	361	403	1005	423	616	401	144
Enteric Fever .....	1	2	1	1	—	49	1	—	1	—
Dysentery .....	10	3	19	—	9	88	69	11	59	35
Erysipelas .....	92	63	53	46	34	28	28	45	34	35
Pneumonia .....	307	275	128	118	123	134	60	111	98	99
Typhus Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever .....	8	7	}31	32	15	13	7	11	11	13
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	17	29								
Ophthalmia										
Neonatorum .....	12	8	8	7	9	9	4	7	5	5
Poliomyelitis .....	1	2	2	4	1	4	—	1	1	2
Encephalitis										
Lethargica .....	2	—	—	1	1	4	1	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	3	3	5	45	25	11	10	1	1
Malaria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	4



Table 3.

Infectious Diseases.—Total number of cases notified, number of cases admitted to hospital, and the total deaths.

A—Year 1944

DISEASE	Notifications received	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox .....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	661	612	—
Diphtheria .....	29	26	1
Measles .....	1716	12	4
Whooping Cough .....	401	4	2
Enteric Fever .....	1	1	—
Dysentery .....	59	3	—
Erysipelas .....	34	3	—
Pneumonia .....	98	9	59
Typhus Fever .....	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	11	8	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	5	4	—
Poliomyelitis .....	1	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	1	1	—
Malaria .....	5	—	—

B—Year 1945

DISEASE	Notifications received	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox .....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	530	489	—
Diphtheria .....	21	19	—
Measles .....	530	8	—
Whooping Cough .....	144	4	—
Enteric Fever .....	—	—	—
Dysentery .....	35	7	—
Erysipelas .....	35	2	—
Pneumonia .....	99	3	69
Typhus Fever .....	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	13	6	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	5	3	—
Poliomyelitis .....	2	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	1	—	1
Malaria .....	4	—	—

**SCARLET FEVER.**—A total of 661 cases was recorded during 1944. The disease was widespread, but mild in type, and was generally prevalent amongst children in the 1-5 group. During 1945, cases were fewer, and towards the end of the year, during which 530 cases in all had occurred, it appeared that the incidence of the disease had commenced to abate.



Table 4.

Age distribution of cases of Infectious Diseases notified.

A—Year 1944.

DISEASE	Notifications received	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Smallpox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	661	3	22	41	74	71	291	105	35	15	2	2	—
Diphtheria .....	29	—	—	1	3	2	6	3	6	7	1	—	—
Measles .....	1716	78	184	237	288	366	536	18	2	6	1	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	401	38	56	66	86	54	95	5	—	1	—	—	—
Enteric Fever .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .....	59	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	12	10	25	7
Erysipelas .....	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	7	5	15	6
Pneumonia .....	98	5	10	11	3	7	13	6	6	15	8	9	5
Typhus Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria .....	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—

B—Year 1945.

DISEASE	Notifications received.	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Smallpox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	530	5	18	37	47	52	275	73	7	12	3	1	—
Diphtheria .....	21	—	—	1	1	3	9	2	3	2	—	—	—
Measles .....	530	43	69	88	75	82	155	13	2	3	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	144	18	22	24	27	20	32	1	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .....	35	—	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	7	5	11	2
Erysipelas .....	35	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	5	17	6
Pneumonia .....	99	6	10	9	6	4	19	6	7	10	9	12	1
Typhus Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria .....	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—

**DIPHTHERIA.**—During the 2 years, 1944 and 1945, the incidence of Diphtheria fell to a strikingly low level, only 29 and 21 cases occurring in each of these years respectively. These figures are the lowest ever recorded for the Borough, and a comparison of this return with those furnished for previous years in Table 2, records a striking testimony of the success of the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign.

During these two years, only 1 death was attributed to Diphtheria, and this occurred in a child who was not immunised.



During both years the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign was proceeded with, and the response was moderately satisfactory. The most pleasing feature was a slightly better response to the appeal for the immunisation of children under 5 years of age, which is the section of the population at greatest risk. The following figures give the number of children immunised through the Health Department Services during the past five years.

Year	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Number Immunised .....	7716	652	4331	1348	1226

It is estimated that at the end of 1945, 40% of children in the borough under 5 years of age and 74% of those aged 5-15 years, had been immunised.

**TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVER.**—During 1944, 1 case of Typhoid Fever occurred in the Borough. The case was admitted to the Isolation Hospital, and recovery occurred uneventfully. Investigation showed that the source of infection was not a local one, the disease being undoubtedly contracted through the eating of raw shell fish from the foreshore in the region of the Mersey Estuary, classed as a “prohibited” area by reason of sewage effluent. No cases were reported during 1945.

**MEASLES.**—During 1944 the incidence of Measles was of epidemic severity, 1716 cases being recorded. In 1945, there was a reduced occurrence, and only 530 cases were notified. The disease was not severe in type.

**WHOOPING COUGH.**—Although cases of Whooping Cough during 1944 showed a decrease from the previous year, the incidence continued steady. There was no appreciable decrease until 1945, when there was a sharp decline in incidence, and during the year the number of cases was lower than had been recorded in any of the preceding 9 years.

**PUERPERAL PYREXIA.**—During 1944, 11 cases, and during 1945, 13 cases, of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified.

**OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.**—5 cases were notified during 1944, and 5 cases in 1945. With the exception of one case which died from other causes all recovered with vision unimpaired.

**CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.**—During 1944, 1 case of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis was notified. Recovery without complications occurred.

One death which occurred in one of the general hospitals of the town in 1945 was registered as due to Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, but no further cases were notified during the year.

**ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.**—One case of Acute Poliomyelitis occurred during 1944, and was admitted to the Isolation Hospital. Following treatment during the acute febrile stage, the case was later transferred to a local hospital for further orthopaedic treatment of residual limb paralysis.

During 1945, 2 cases of the disease were notified. 1 occurred in a general hospital and was diagnosed only by the occurrence of a late limb paralysis. The other case was admitted in a serious condition to the Isolation Hospital, and, despite treatment in a mechanical respirator, the patient died from paralysis of the respiratory muscles.



**OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**—The number of cases of Erysipelas notified during the years 1944 and 1945 was 34 and 35 respectively. Only occasional cases of this disease are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, when bed facilities permit.

In 1944, 59 cases of Dysentery were notified. 25 occurred amongst the inmates of the County Mental Hospital, Rainhill. There were 35 notifications in 1945, and, of these, 23 occurred in the County Mental Hospital, Rainhill.

A disquieting feature, during the 2 years under survey, was the fairly widespread occurrence in some districts of the town of Dysentery of the Sonne type. Although not fatal, this disease caused considerable alarm by its sudden and incapacitating onset and its resemblance to some of the more severe varieties of Acute Food Poisoning. Investigation of one epidemic in a restricted area of the town, where cases were occurring amongst school children, revealed an incidence greater than that shown by the number of cases actually notified, and an analysis of case histories in various households led to the conclusion that the disease had been widely disseminated by unsuspecting ambulant carriers. All the evidence pointed to a possible spread through the medium of communal feeding in school meal centres, and, as a practical measure of control, steps were taken to investigate the cooking and serving staff personnel of the local school canteen. Carriers of the disease were discovered on this staff and were suspended until bacteriologically free from infection.

**BOROUGH ISOLATION HOSPITAL.**—Details of admissions and discharges to this hospital are shown in Table 6.

In addition to serving the area of St. Helens Borough, this hospital now admits, by arrangement, a proportion of cases from the area of the Whiston, Huyton and Prescott Joint Hospital Board.

The admission rate to the Isolation Hospital remained at a fairly constant level during the 2 years, although the number of cases in 1945 was less than in the preceding year. The number of cases admitted from the area of Whiston, Huyton and Prescott Joint Hospital Board was 133 in 1944 and 60 in 1945. These totals are included in the gross totals for hospital admissions in Table 6A and 6B.

The out-patient facilities in the Cleansing Block, for the treatment of scabies and the cleansing of verminously infested persons, continued to be well utilised. During 1944, 910 cases of scabies were treated and 67 infested persons were cleansed—the corresponding figures for 1945 being 594 cases of scabies and 99 infested persons.

**Table 6.**  
Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital. Hospital Diagnoses of cases treated during :  
A—1944

DISEASE	In hospital Jan. 1st, 1944	Admitted	Discharged	Died	In hospital Jan. 1st, 1945
Scarlet Fever .....	55	705	685	—	75
Diphtheria .....	6	28	28	2	4
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	—	4	4	—	—
Venereal Disease .....	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	44	34	—	10
Other Diseases .....	2	143	131	6	8
Mothers with sick babies	—	—	—	—	—
Babies with sick mothers	—	4	3	—	1
Total .....	63	928	885	8	98



## B—1945

DISEASE	In hospital Jan. 1st, 1945	Admitted	Discharged	Died	In hospital Jan. 1st, 1946
Scarlet Fever .....	75	524	551	—	48
Diphtheria .....	4	19	17	1	5
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	—	4	3	1	—
Venereal Disease .....	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	10	20	30	—	—
Other Diseases .....	8	127	123	6	6
Mothers with sick babies	—	1	1	—	—
Babies with sick mothers	1	5	6	—	—
Total .....	98	700	731	8	59

**AMBULANCE PROVISION.**—The arrangements for ambulance provision for the conveyance of bedding, etc., for disinfection remained as in previous years. During 1944 the total Ambulance mileage was 32,242 miles, and in 1945, 30,681 miles.

#### IV.—LABORATORY WORK.

Up to 1945, a certain number of the routine bacteriological and pathological examinations of specimens from cases of infectious disease had been carried out by the medical staff at the Town Hall Laboratory. The establishment of an E.M.S. Laboratory in the town, however, offered more comprehensive facilities for these examinations than could be afforded by the small laboratory of the Health Department. Arrangements were therefore made, during 1945, for these bacteriological and pathological specimens to be examined and reported on at the E.M.S. Laboratory. Specimens from the Venereal Diseases Centre were not, however, included in this agreement, but are still dispatched for examination and report to the City Laboratories, Liverpool. Table 7 shows the number of specimens dealt with in both laboratories and in the Town Hall laboratory during the years 1944-45.

Table 7.

SPECIMENS	Number Received		Results			
			Positive		Negative	
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
Swabs for Diphtheria .....	2101	1045	3	7	2098	1038
Sputa for Tuberculosis .....	1027	516	237	123	790	393
Hairs for Ringworm .....	2	2	—	—	2	2
Blood for Wasserman Reaction .....	467	651	104	127	363	524
Films for Gonococci .....	436	396	42	44	394	352
Pus and other fluids and discharges for various organisms .....	41	22	15	4	26	18
Other Specimens .....	111	57	29	8	82	49
Total .....	4185	2689	430	313	3755	2376

Outfits for the collection of specimens of sputa, blood, throat swabs, etc., are supplied free of charge.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

**INCIDENCE.**—During 1944, 94 new cases of pulmonary and 27 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. In addition, a further 15 cases came to the knowledge of the department from other sources, e.g., death returns, posthumous



notifications and transfers from other areas, so that the total number of new cases for the year was 136, of which 105 were pulmonary and 31 non-pulmonary.

During 1945, 81 cases of pulmonary and 25 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, and 2 new cases of pulmonary and 6 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were discovered from other sources, so that the total number of new cases for 1945 was 83 pulmonary and 31 non-pulmonary. At the end of 1945 there remained on the Tuberculosis Register 459 cases of pulmonary and 320 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

**MORTALITY.**—During 1944 the number of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis was 60, giving a tuberculosis death rate of 6.1 per 10,000 of the population. Of these deaths 48 were due to pulmonary and 12 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

During 1945, the deaths from all forms of tuberculosis numbered 71, giving a tuberculosis death rate of 7.1 per 10,000 of the population. Of these, 58 were due to pulmonary and 13 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Age grouping of the new cases and of the deaths that occurred during 1944 and 1945 is shown in Tables 8A and 8B. The number of cases notified and the number of deaths each year during the past 20 years is shown in Table 9.

**Table 8A.**  
Particulars of new cases and of deaths during 1944.

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year .....	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
1 to 5 years .....	2	1	2	3	1	—	3	2
5 to 15 years .....	3	—	9	6	—	—	—	1
15 to 25 years .....	14	20	3	2	3	10	1	1
25 to 35 years .....	10	12	—	1	5	8	—	1
35 to 45 years .....	14	6	1	1	2	—	—	—
45 to 55 years .....	12	2	—	—	10	4	—	1
55 to 65 years .....	6	2	—	1	3	—	—	—
65 — .....	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
Totals .....	62	43	16	15	26	22	4	8

**Table 8B.**  
Particulars of new cases and of deaths during 1945.

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year .....	—	—	3	2	—	—	1	2
1 to 5 years .....	1	1	6	2	—	—	3	—
5 to 15 years .....	1	2	3	4	—	1	—	—
15 to 25 years .....	12	17	4	1	7	12	2	2
25 to 35 years .....	9	8	—	2	5	7	—	—
35 to 45 years .....	14	2	1	2	3	10	—	—
45 to 55 years .....	9	2	—	—	9	—	1	—
55 to 65 years .....	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65— .....	2	—	1	—	2	—	1	1
Totals .....	51	32	18	13	28	30	8	5



Table 9.

Number of cases notified and number of deaths each year,  
1926 to 1945.

Year	No. of Primary notifications received.		Deaths		Death Rate per 10,000 of population	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1926	140	68	91	32	8.2	2.92
1927	129	61	74	22	6.5	1.95
1928	139	68	84	21	7.6	1.90
1929	130	50	91	24	8.3	2.2
1930	119	53	73	26	6.7	2.4
1931	110	67	103	17	9.5	1.6
1932	141	48	72	16	6.7	1.5
1933	107	60	79	11	7.3	1.0
1934	94	40	72	23	6.7	2.1
1935	83	31	65	9	6.0	0.8
1936	75	48	72	7	6.7	0.6
1937	87	46	60	15	5.6	1.4
1938	74	35	57	13	5.3	1.2
1939	57	39	49	21	4.6	1.9
1940	96	44	67	12	6.5	1.2
1941	81	33	46	23	4.5	2.2
1942	80	25	59	15	5.8	1.5
1943	107	24	64	12	6.4	1.2
1944	94	27	48	12	4.9	1.2
1945	81	25	58	13	5.8	1.3

A comparison of the figures in Table 9 shows that the incidence of the pulmonary form of the disease, after rising during the war years to a peak in 1943, is tending to decline. The mortality figures show for the pulmonary form of the disease a rise in 1945 which rather tends to correspond with the high incidence of notifications in 1943. Non-pulmonary deaths have remained at a constantly low figure over the past four years, a remarkable fact in view of the stringency of living conditions over the period.

**TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.**—In June 1945, the Tuberculosis Dispensary was moved from the old and rather cramped quarters in part of the School Clinic, Claughton Street, to the new and more commodious premises at Bank House, Claughton Street.

These new premises provide on one floor a consulting room, waiting room, dressing cubicles, X-ray and dark rooms, and a large well-lighted treatment room, together with general office and Welfare Officer's room. The whole forms a single compact and easily run unit with ample space, and, apart from the greatly improved facilities for carrying on the work of the Tuberculosis Dispensary, provides a much improved psychological atmosphere for the patient.

A record of the work carried out at or in connection with the Tuberculosis Dispensary during the past five years is shown in Table 10. Included is a considerable number of cases referred by the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Pensions, for report on diagnosis or progress. This is an aspect of the Tuberculosis Service which continues to expand steadily. Home disinfection of premises and bedding was carried out in 344 instances during 1944 and 434 instances in 1945.



**Table 10.**

Record of work at or in connection with the Tuberculosis Dispensary during the years 1941-1945.

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
1. Cases examined for the first time .....	257	299	397	394	284
2. New contacts examined for the first time .....	56	81	131	83	98
3. Cases transferred from other areas or returned after discharge from the Register .....	6	3	2	4	1
Total .....	319	383	530	481	383
4. Cases and contacts diagnosed to be tuberculous :					
Pulmonary—Adults .....	57	59	72	84	61
"    Children .....	1	1	3	—	—
Non-pulmonary—Adults .....	8	10	9	9	6
"    Children .....	14	14	13	10	13
Total .....	80	84	97	103	80
5. Contacts diagnosed to be tuberculous ( <i>included in item 4</i> ) .....	—	—	1	—	—
6. Removed from Dispensary Register as :—					
Non-tuberculous .....	181	285	361	379	262
Recovered .....	5	11	11	21	33
Dead (all causes) .....	53	54	40	66	74
Transferred to other areas or lost sight of .....	6	8	9	7	13
Total .....	245	358	421	473	382
7. "Recovered" cases restored to Register ( <i>included in items 1 and 4</i> ) .....	1	—	—	—	—
8. Cases on Dispensary Register on 31st December :—					
Diagnosis completed :					
Pulmonary—Adults .....	286	287	308	330	344
"    Children .....	124	125	127	123	115
Non-Pulmonary—Adults .....	80	87	90	98	98
"    Children .....	211	216	215	214	222
Diagnosis not completed :					
Adults .....	19	23	43	36	31
Children .....	30	37	37	27	19
Total .....	750	775	820	828	829
9. Pulmonary cases on Register on 31st December which were T.B. + .....	136	139	136	140	133
10. Consultations with medical practitioners (personal and other) .....	156	159	171	165	173
11. Sputum examinations .....	196	302	424	306	186
12. X-ray examinations .....	1173	1254	1483	2105	1622
13. Home visits by Tuberculosis Officer .....	73	74	105	120	41
14. Home visits by Nurses or Health Visitors .....	1231	1071	1151	1021	1183
15. Attendances at Dispensary .....	939	1111	1354	1696	1740



**NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.**—Cases of bone and joint disease in children are treated under the Council's Orthopaedic Scheme. Details of these are given in the Orthopaedic Section of the report. The arrangements with the Liverpool Corporation for the treatment of cases with lupus at their heliotherapy clinic at the Belmont Road Institution were continued, and during each of the years 1944 and 1945, 8 cases received light treatment at that institution with considerable benefit.

At the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Ultra Violet light therapy was applied in suitable cases, and in 1944, 27 cases of tuberculous adenitis, 1 case of tuberculous abdomen, and 2 of bone and joint disease, made 227 attendances for this form of treatment. In 1945, 17 cases of tuberculous adenitis, 5 cases of tuberculous abdomen, and 3 cases of bone and joint disease made 260 attendances for Ultra Violet light therapy.

**DENTAL TREATMENT.**—During 1944, 60 patients, and in 1945, 59 patients, received dental treatment at Eccleston Hall Sanatorium, and treatment was provided at the Central Dental Clinic for 8 Dispensary cases in 1944 and 4 Dispensary cases in 1945.

**INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.**—At the Council's Sanatorium at Eccleston Hall, there is accommodation for 76 patients, and practically all types of cases, except acute surgical cases, are dealt with at that institution. During 1944, 79 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium, 74 were discharged, and 17 died. The corresponding figures for 1945 were 90 admitted, 61 discharged, and 24 died.

During 1944, 24 in-patients and 12 out-patients were undergoing collapse therapy in the form of artificial pneumothorax at Eccleston Hall Sanatorium; this involved 24 inductions and 8 unsuccessfully attempted. Refills totalled 1,902, including 275 performed on out-patients.

During 1945, the corresponding figures were 46 in-patients and 20 out-patients, with 18 inductions and 7 unsuccessfully attempted. Refills totalled 1,728, including 330 performed on out-patients.

During 1944, 16 patients, and in 1945, 14 patients, received courses of injections of gold salts or calcium, administered either intravenously or intramuscularly. All treatment is controlled by serial X-ray examination and blood sedimentation tests. Thoracic surgery also continued to play an important part in treatment, and the following cases were transferred temporarily to either the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, or to one of the local hospitals, for the operations indicated :—

	1944	1945
Thoracoplasty operations .....	2	1
Extra pleural pneumothorax .....	2	2
Thoracoscopy and division of adhesions .....	12	8
Phrenic nerve operations .....	4	4

The Sanatorium School provides education for child inmates able to attend, and bedside tuition is given to those medically fit to benefit therefrom.

In addition to accommodation at the Council's Eccleston Hall Sanatorium, early pulmonary cases are occasionally sent to the Liverpool Sanatorium, Delamere, and an average of 7 beds are kept in constant use at Liverpool Open-Air Hospital for Children, for non-pulmonary cases.



During 1944 arrangements were also made for the admission of suitable cases of bone and joint tuberculosis in adults to the Wrightington Orthopaedic Hospital, and for females to the Liverpool Open-Air Hospital for Children, Leasowe.

**HOME SHELTERS FOR TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS.**—In September, 1945, the Council inaugurated a scheme whereby suitable patients living at home could be provided with specially constructed shelters to enable them to carry on the sanatorium principles of treatment in their own homes. These shelters (known as the Strawson pattern) are moveable and can be readily erected in the garden or other suitable site at the home, and enable the patient to get full benefits of living an open-air life whilst still resident at his own home. The shelters are provided in accordance with the following conditions :—

1. That the shelter be only loaned to a patient approved by the Tuberculosis Officer. The site to be approved by the Council.
2. That the shelter be erected and taken down under the supervision of and at the cost of the Corporation, and that no rent be charged for it.
3. That the patient undertakes to look after the shelter to the best of his ability and report any faults or damage immediately to the Medical Officer's Department. The cost of repair of any wilful damage to or gross neglect of the shelter, to be payable by the patient to the Council.
4. That the patient undertakes to sleep in the shelter and to use it as directed by the Tuberculosis Officer during such period as the shelter is on loan to him.
5. That the period of loan of the shelter be, in the first instance, a period of six months, the Tuberculosis Officer to have power in his absolute discretion to extend such period.
6. The hire or loan of the shelter may be determined forthwith by the Medical Officer of Health on breach of any of the patient's agreements.

**TUBERCULOSIS ALLOWANCES SCHEME.**—The Government scheme for financial allowances for certain classes of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis was put into operation on 1st October, 1943. Since that date up to the end of 1945, 77 patients had received allowances under the scheme amounting to a total of £6,392/9/0. Included in this total were 6 discretionary allowances towards hire purchase, or insurance premiums, and 2 special payments of pocket money to patients in Eccleston Hall Sanatorium. During the same period 12 of the patients returned to full-time occupations, and 6 ceased to qualify for the allowances, but 4 patients after receiving benefit for the maximum period had to be referred to the Social Welfare Department for further assistance.

On the whole the advantages of the scheme outweigh its weaknesses. It enables the patient to take advantage of early sanatorium treatment knowing that some provision is made for those at home. Under present standards, however, the allowances are much too low and do not allow sufficiently for the additional expenses necessarily incurred by those patients. The fact also that the scheme does not apply to the chronic or to the advanced case makes it extremely difficult for the Tuberculosis Officer to explain to such patients why some are entitled to the allowance and others are not.



All enquiries and investigations in connection with the scheme are carried out by the Welfare Worker, who, in addition to such duties, is responsible for the social care and after-care of all tuberculosis patients.

VI.—VENEREAL DISEASES.

The following statement shows the number of cases dealt with at the Venereal Diseases Centre during the years 1944 and 1945 in comparison with the numbers in 1943 :—

	1943		1944		1945	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
1. No. of cases under treatment or observation on 1st January .....	18	52	13	66	29	101
2. No. of new cases (including cases previously removed from the register who returned for further observation or treatment) .....	104	148	82	167	85	159
3. No. of cases discharged after completion of treatment or transferred to other centres or ceased to attend .....	109	134	66	134	65	188
4. No. of cases remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December .....	13	66	29	101	49	72
5. No. of attendances :—						
(a) For consultation or treatment by Medical Officers .....	532	718	553	1021	759	1447
(b) For intermediate treatments .....	155	1316	132	1270	44	794

Table 11 shows the number of cases of definite venereal disease treated for the first time at the St. Helens Venereal Diseases Centre during each of the past ten years. This table excludes cases which had received treatment previously at other Centres and also cases removed from the register in previous years who returned for treatment or observation for the same infection. This Table might, therefore, be taken as showing the local incidence of these diseases.

Table 11.

Number of new cases of Venereal Diseases dealt with during 10 years, 1936 to 1945 :

Year	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhoea		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1936 .....	14	4	—	—	33	15	66
1937 .....	8	8	—	—	47	19	82
1938 .....	5	7	—	—	36	13	61
1939 .....	6	9	—	—	40	14	69
1940 .....	2	10	1	—	14	7	34
1941 .....	3	6	—	—	22	12	43
1942 .....	11	7	—	—	28	13	59
1943 .....	11	13	—	—	39	41	104
1944 .....	21	28	—	—	27	29	105
1945 .....	18	40	2	—	33	19	112



From the figures given it will be seen that during the two years under review, there was a still further increase in the high incidence of Venereal Diseases associated with the war years. The increase was mainly apparent in the total number of cases of syphilis, and though a slight decrease in male syphilis occurred in 1945, there was a sharp rise that year in the number of female cases of syphilis as contrasted with the previous year. In regard to gonorrhoea the incidence as shown by attendances at the treatment centre, though still high, did not during the two years under review show any marked increase. There was, in fact a decrease in both years when compared with the year 1943, but whether this decrease was actual or due to more gonorrhoea patients receiving treatment by means of sulphanilamide drugs from private medical practitioners, it is difficult to say.

In no case discovered locally was it found necessary to put Regulation 33B into force, but by informal follow-up methods 13 cases were brought under treatment during 1944 and 12 during 1945.

In the informal following-up of suspected cases and of irregular attenders, the services of the Welfare Worker have again proved of great assistance.

During 1944 arrangements were made with the Liverpool Corporation for the admission to the Belmont Road Hospital, Liverpool, of cases requiring in-patient treatment. These had previously been treated at the Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital, but in view of the few number of cases requiring admission in any one year, and the necessity of always having at that hospital staff trained in the technique of treatment, it was found more advantageous that such cases should go to a larger hospital having specialised facilities.

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## VII.—NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

No alterations occurred during the year in the general nursing arrangements or hospital facilities, and these remain as detailed in the Report for 1938.

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## VIII.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

**NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.**—Under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 2,127 live births and 76 still births were notified during 1944. In respect of these, 2,061 notifications were received from midwives and 142 from doctors. The corresponding figures for 1945 were 2,054 live births and 64 still births, 1,990 notified by midwives and 128 by doctors.

The total number of live births registered as belonging to St. Helens was 2,018 in 1944 and 2,014 in 1945, giving a birth rate of 20.5 per 1,000 of the population for the year 1944 and 20.3 per 1,000 of the population in 1945. The corresponding rates over the past 5 years were respectively 17.3 in 1939, 18.0 in 1940, 18.6 in 1941, 17.7 in 1942 and 19.8 in 1943.

**INFANT MORTALITY.**—During 1944 the death occurred of 116 infants under the age of one year, giving an Infant Mortality Rate for that year of 57.5 per 1,000 live births. The number of infants who died under one year of age during 1945 was 121, giving an Infant Mortality Rate for that year of 60.1 per 1,000 births. The infant mortality rate for 1944 was the second lowest ever recorded for the Borough, and the rate for 1945 was the third lowest ever recorded. The corresponding rates during the preceding five years were 79.5 in 1939, 78.2 in 1940, 71.2 in 1941, 64.7 in 1942 and 72.5 in 1943. The average for the five years, 1941-1945 was 65.2.



The principal causes of these deaths during 1944 and 1945 were :—

	1944	1945
Congenital debility and premature birth .....	28	29
Congenital malformations .....	34	32
Pneumonia .....	13	24
Bronchitis .....	3	3
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	—	—
Diarrhoea .....	21	17
Other digestive disorders .....	4	1
Measles .....	2	—
Whooping Cough .....	2	—
Influenza .....	—	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .....	—	—
Tuberculosis .....	1	3
Other causes .....	8	10
	<hr/> 116	<hr/> 121

In comparison with previous years the above figures show no appreciable change in the number of deaths due to congenital debility and premature birth or to congenital malformations, and they again emphasise the need for early and continuous ante-natal care, and the best possible arrangements for the confinement. Deaths from Pneumonia and Bronchitis, however, showed an appreciable decrease.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1944 and 1945 was 46 per 1,000 births. The rates for the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London, were 52 in 1944 and 54 in 1945.

**STILL-BIRTHS.**—76 Still-births were notified during 1944 and 64 in 1945. All still-births notified are investigated with regard to cause.

**MATERNAL DEATHS.**—During 1944, 7 deaths were registered as resulting from childbirth or diseases or accidents of pregnancy, giving a maternal mortality rate for that year of 3.33 per 1,000 live and still-births. 2 of these deaths were associated with Sepsis.

In 1945, 7 maternal deaths occurred, giving a maternal mortality for that year of 3.36 per 1,000 live and still-births. In only one case in 1945 was the death attributable to Sepsis.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

**Puerperal Pyrexia.**—11 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified during 1944, and 13 cases in 1945. The final diagnoses of these cases were :—

	1944	1945
Generalised Peritonitis and Septicaemia .....	2	3
Localised Pelvic Infection .....	2	6
Septicaemia .....	2	—
Mastitis .....	3	2
Pyelitis .....	1	—
Cystitis .....	1	—
Phlegmasia Alba Dolens .....	—	2
	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 13



In 1944 the 2 cases of Generalised Peritonitis died. All the other cases recovered.

In 1945, one patient died of Paralytic Ileus, due to Pelvic Cellulitis following Caesarean Section. All the other cases notified during the year made good recoveries.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**—During 1944, 5 cases were notified. One of these died, the primary cause of death being prematurity. All the others recovered with vision unimpaired. In 1945 5 cases were notified, and all recovered with vision unimpaired.

**Pemphigus.**—3 cases occurred in 1944 in 3 midwives' practices and in 1945 5 cases in 5 midwives' practices.

**Other Infectious Diseases.**—The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases which occurred in children under 5 years of age, and the deaths resulting therefrom.

	Under 1 year				1—5 years			
	Cases		Deaths		Cases		Deaths	
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
Scarlet Fever .....	3	5	—	—	208	154	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—	—	6	5	—	—
Measles .....	78	43	—	—	1075	314	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	38	18	—	—	262	93	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—

**Home Nursing and Hospital Arrangements.**—By arrangements with the St. Helens and District Nursing Association, home nursing is provided in suitable cases, and for those requiring hospital treatment beds are available at the Isolation Hospital. During 1944, 8 cases of puerperal pyrexia, 10 cases of measles, 4 cases of whooping cough and 4 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were admitted to that hospital, and during 1945 6 cases of puerperal pyrexia, 8 cases of measles, 4 cases of whooping cough and 3 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum.

**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES.**—In 1944, 37 midwives notified their intention to practise within the Borough. Of these, 9 were in private practice, 14 were municipal midwives, 7 were employed in the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital, and 7 in the Maternity Block of the St. Helens Hospital.

In 1945, 32 midwives notified their intention to practise within the Borough. Of these, 7 were in private practice, 14 were municipal midwives, 7 were employed in the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital, and 4 in the Maternity Block of the St. Helens Hospital.

The supervision and inspection of midwives is carried out partly by Medical Officers and partly by the Inspector of Midwives. During 1944 a total of 93 visits for inspection and supervision of private midwives and 241 visits of inspection of municipal midwives were carried out. The corresponding figures for 1945 were 87 visits to private midwives and 211 to municipal midwives.



During 1944 the private and municipal midwives attended 964 cases as midwives and 366 cases as maternity nurses, and during 1945 they attended 864 cases as midwives and 167 as maternity nurses.

In their capacity as midwives they found it necessary to call medical practitioners to their assistance on 279 occasions (28.5% of the cases attended) in 1944, and on 250 occasions (28.9%) in 1945.

**MUNICIPAL MIDWIFERY SERVICE.**—The following table gives a summary of the work done by the staff of the Municipal Midwifery Service during the years 1944 and 1945 :—

	1944	1945
Number of cases attended :—		
as midwife .....	794	781
as maternity nurse .....	146	126
	<hr/> 940	<hr/> 907
Number of live births .....	882	850
Number of still births .....	41	24
Number of abortions .....	33	41
Number of cases in which midwife sent for		
Medical assistance .....	248(31.2%)	230(29.4%)
Supervisor's visits and inspections .....	241	211

**HEALTH VISITING.**—The following statement shows the visits paid by health visitors during the two years under review.

	1944	1945
To expectant mothers :—		
(a) first visits .....	540	523
(b) subsequent visits .....	1243	1011
To infants under one year :—		
(a) first visits .....	1935	1891
(b) subsequent visits .....	6756	6401
To children, aged one to five years .....	18835	18131
Total visits .....	<hr/> 29309	<hr/> 27957

**MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.**—During 1944 and 1945 there were 2 private nursing homes registered in St. Helens with accommodation for 15 maternity cases. The number of maternity cases delivered in these homes was 241 in 1944 and 219 in 1945.

In the maternity block of the St. Helens Hospital 349 cases were delivered in 1944 and 374 in 1945.

**CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.**—Clinics for children under 5 years of age are held at 9 sessions weekly at 6 centres. The number of children under 1 year who attended these clinics may be considered satisfactory, 72.2% of the notified



births attending in 1944 and 74.2% in 1945. The number of toddlers attending the special toddlers' clinic at the Main Centre, or one or other of the baby clinic sessions, is low, but many children aged 2 to 5 years now attend at either the Corporation Day Nursery, or the Nursery Classes at the schools, and are thus under medical supervision at these places.

Table 12 shows the attendances at the various Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics during the years 1944 and 1945, in comparison with the year 1943.

**Table 12.**

Attendances at Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

	1943	1944	1945
<b>Child Welfare Clinics.</b>			
No. of children who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :—			
(i) under 1 year of age .....	1326	1536	1524
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years .....	693	524	282
Percentage of notified births represented by the number of children who on the date of their first attendance were under 1 year of age .....	60.9	72.2	74.2
Number who attended and at the end of the year were—			
(i) under 1 year of age .....	1233	1444	1298
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years .....	1726	1459	1473
No. of attendances by children—			
(i) under 1 year of age .....	12434	13359	13060
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years .....	1933	2896	2838
<b>Test-feeding Clinic.</b>			
No. of nursing mothers who attended .....	—	—	—
No. of attendances .....	—	—	—
<b>Ante-natal Clinics.</b>			
No. of expectant mothers who attended .....	1315	1354	1373
No. of attendances by expectant mothers .....	6382	6630	6531
Percentage of total notified births (live and still) represented by the number of expectant mothers who attended either the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres or the Ante-natal Clinics .....	60.4	61.4	64.8
<b>Gynaecological and Post-natal Clinic.</b>			
No. of Mothers who attended .....	277	302	255
No. of attendances .....	553	564	464
<b>Sunlight Clinic.</b>			
No. of Children who attended .....	122	121	134
No. of attendances .....	2437	2204	2906
<b>Toddlers' Clinics.</b>			
No. of Toddlers who attended .....	183	140	156
No. of attendances .....	916	214	237



**ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.**—Special ante-natal clinics are held 7 times weekly at 6 centres. In 1944 an ante-natal clinic was started at the Albion Street centre to relieve the pressure of attendances at the Town Hall centre. This new session has proved to be very successful and is appreciated by the mothers in that district of the town. In 61.4% of the total notified (live and still) births during 1944 the mothers had attended one or other of these clinics. The corresponding percentage for 1945 was 64.8.

**GYNAECOLOGICAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC.**—This clinic is held once a week at the Town Hall Centre and serves the double purpose of investigation of gynaecological conditions associated with pregnancy and as a clinic for post-natal supervision.

During 1944, 174 patients visited this clinic for post-natal examinations, and in 1945 the number of post-natal patients who attended was 159. Post-natal supervision is, however, also carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinics and at two of the Ante-Natal Clinics, and the total number of women who received special post-natal supervision was 530 in 1944 and 801 in 1945.

The number of gynaecological patients attending this clinic was 128 (350 attendances) in 1944 and 96 (292 attendances) in 1945.

At this clinic patients also receive advice on Birth Control methods when such is desirable for medical reasons. The following statement indicates the number of patients to whom such advice was given, and the reasons, during the years 1944 and 1945 :—

	1944	1945
Renal Disease .....	9	6
Cardiac Disease .....	5	2
Recurrent Toxaemia of pregnancy .....	3	—
Phthisis .....	3	2
Diabetes Mellitus .....	—	2
Pernicious Anaemia.....	1	3
Post Encephalitis .....	—	1
	—	—
	21	16
	—	—

**SUNLIGHT CLINIC.**—To this clinic, which is held twice weekly, are referred weakly and debilitated children likely to benefit from ultra violet therapy. During 1944, 121 children made 2,204 attendances for irradiation, and during 1945 134 children made 2,906 attendances. Generally speaking, the results have been very good.

**HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.**—During 1944, in order to meet the increased demand for hospital maternity beds, the number of beds for maternity cases at the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital was increased from 20 to 25. This was accomplished by closing one of the children's wards and opening it as an extra maternity ward. The accommodation at that Hospital is therefore now 25 maternity beds and 20 cots for children under 5 years of age.

The hospital is also a recognised Training School for the Part II examination of the Central Midwives Board.



613 Maternity cases were accommodated during 1944. This number included 18 cases in hospital on 1st January and 81 expectant mothers admitted for ante-natal treatment. The number of deliveries during the year was 547. There were 21 still-births, and 10 infants died within 10 days of birth. 11 cases were admitted after delivery.

The following abnormal cases were dealt with during the year :—

Caesarean Section .....	11
Forceps Delivery .....	6
Retained Placenta .....	11
Intra and Post-partum Haemorrhage .....	13
Ante-partum Haemorrhage .....	8
Toxaemia of pregnancy .....	15
Breech delivery .....	9

In 1944, the number of maternal deaths in this hospital was 5, and the causes of death were as follows :—

1. Peritonitis following Caesarean Section.
2. Post-partum Haemorrhage.
3. Transverse Myelitis.
4. Obstetric shock due to intra-partum haemorrhage due to adherent placenta.
5. Placenta praevia with a twin pregnancy.

During this year, special arrangements were made for the care of premature infants. A special electrically heated cot was provided in a small nursery, and the nursing staff were given instruction regarding the care of these infants. The cot has been found useful in maintaining a constant temperature for these patients.

For premature infants born in their homes and kept at home, special basket cots, fitted with special lining, mattress and bedding, Belcroy feeding bottle, and hot water bottles, are available. These have also proved of value in the preservation of life in premature infants.

During 1945, the number of cases dealt with at this hospital was 618, including 21 in hospital on 1st January, and 80 admitted for ante-natal treatment. The number of deliveries was 521. There were 18 still-births, and 11 infants died within 10 days of birth. 25 cases were admitted after delivery. Abnormal cases included the following :—

Caesarean Section .....	17
Forceps delivery .....	5
Retained placenta .....	4
Intra and Post-Partum Haemorrhage .....	8
Ante-partum Haemorrhage .....	5
Toxaemia of pregnancy .....	17
Breech delivery .....	13
Cord presentation .....	1
Persistent Occipito posterior positions .....	7

There was 1 maternal death in 1945, the cause of death being Pernicious Anaemia.

In the children's wards, 104 children under 5 years of age were admitted during 1944, and 20 children were already in hospital on 1st January, so that a total of 124 children were accommodated during the year. 93 of these children were admitted for care and supervision while their mothers were in hospital either for midwifery or surgical reasons or for illnesses such as Pneumonia or Cardiac



disease. The remaining 31 children were admitted for the following causes :—

Marasmus .....	8
Debility.....	5
Rickets .....	4
Prematurity .....	3
Pink Disease .....	2
Pyloro-spasm .....	2
Bronchitis .....	2
Gastro-Enteritis .....	2
Spina Bifida .....	1
Coeliac Disease .....	1
Cleft Palate .....	1

During 1945, the number of children admitted was 104, making, with 13 in-patients on 1st January, a total of 117. 92 were taken care of while their mothers were in hospital, and 25 were admitted for the following reasons :—

Marasmus .....	13
Coeliac Disease .....	2
Spina Bifida .....	2
Gastro-Enteritis .....	2
Prematurity .....	2
Pink Disease .....	1
Bronchitis .....	1
Tabes Mesentericus .....	1
Mongolism .....	1

In addition to the accommodation for maternity cases provided at the Corporation's Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital, special arrangements were made during 1944 for admission to hospital, in emergency, of cases for which arrangements had been made to have the confinement at home, but for which during the progress of that confinement hospital treatment was found to be urgently required. In the past a limited number of these cases has been admitted to the Corporation's Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital, but beds at that hospital were not always available for them, and application had to be made to the County Hospital, Whiston. Under the new arrangements all medical practitioners and practising midwives have been notified that application for admission of such cases to hospital should be made to the Corporation's Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital, who accept responsibility for finding the necessary accommodation either in that hospital or at the Whiston County Hospital, transporting the case in the Corporation Ambulance. Under this scheme Doctors and Midwives in attendance on such cases are spared much inconvenience and worry in finding the necessary hospital accommodation, and the use of the Corporation Ambulance saves considerable time in the transport of the case. Arrangements have also been made on similar lines for the admission of abortion cases to the Whiston County Hospital.

**CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.**—In the early part of 1944 further consideration was given to the care of the unmarried mother and her child, and arrangements were made for the reservation of two places in the St. Monica's Home, Liverpool, for cases from St. Helens, and places are taken in other homes as required. All cases of unmarried expectant mothers coming to the knowledge of the Department through Health Visitors, Municipal Midwives and other agencies are notified to the Medical Officer in charge of Maternity and Child Welfare Services, who after investigation decides which cases can be dealt with at home or through local hospitals, and which cases can most suitably be dealt with by periods of residence at suitable Homes. The mother is usually admitted to the Home a few months before the expected confinement, and remains there



after confinement until suitable arrangements can be made for the after-care of herself and the child. During the two years 1944 and 1945, of the unmarried mothers coming to the notice of the Department, accommodation was provided in Homes for 80 under this scheme.

**WAR-TIME NURSERY.**—During the years 1944 and 1945, the Corporation War-time Nursery in Hall Street was again well utilised. The average number on the register was 35 in 1944 and 30 in 1945, and the average daily attendance was 29.3 in 1944 and 20.5 in 1945. This average daily attendance excludes Saturday and Sunday, as the Nursery is open from 6-30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 6-30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Apart from catarrhal conditions, the health of the children attending the Nursery was good. All the mothers of these children were working during these two years.

**MILK FOR MOTHERS AND INFANTS.**—With the continuance of the National Milk Scheme, the issue of dried milk through the Council's scheme for milk for mothers and infants was limited to special cases for whom the National Scheme was not altogether satisfactory.

During 1944, approximately 157½ cwts. of dried milk were distributed through the Council's scheme, and of this, 301 lbs. were issued free and 639 lbs. at less than cost price.

In 1945, approximately 152 cwts. were distributed, of which 412lbs. were issued free and 270 lbs. at less than cost price.

**MINOR AILMENTS AND DENTAL DEFECTS.**—During 1944, 25 children received treatment for minor ailments, and 209 mothers and 51 children received dental treatment at the Council's Clinics. During 1945, the number of children who received treatment for minor ailments was 18, and 196 mothers and 61 children received dental treatment.

**CRIPPLED CHILDREN.**—Crippling defects in children under 5 years of age are dealt with under the Council's Orthopaedic Scheme, which provides periodic supervision by the Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and the special Orthopaedic Nurse, and hospital treatment when required. A complete record of the work under the Orthopaedic Scheme is given in Tables 13 and 14.

From these Tables it will be seen that during 1944, 184 maternity and child welfare cases were dealt with, 1 case being admitted to hospital for operation.

During 1945, 128 maternity and child welfare cases were dealt with under this Scheme and 1 admitted to hospital.

**CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.**—Particulars are given in the following statement of cases dealt with each year.

	1944	1945
Number of persons on the Register receiving children for reward at end of year .....	6	3
Number of children :—		
(a) On the Register on 1st January .....	6	6
(b) Admitted to the Register during the year .....	2	2
(c) Removed from the Register during the year—		
(i) Left the Borough .....	—	—
(ii) Legally adopted .....	—	1
(iii) Returned to relatives .....	2	4
(iv) Over age .....	— 2	— 5
(d) Died during the year .....	—	—
(e) On the Register on 31st December .....	6	3



The children were inspected regularly by the Health Visitors, who are also Child Protection Visitors, and all were found to be well cared for and living under satisfactory conditions.

IX.—ORTHOPAEDICS.

The general arrangements for the carrying out of the work of the Orthopaedic Department remained as in previous years, and a summary of the work during the years 1944 and 1945 is given in Table 13. Table 14 shows the cases treated classified according to their defects.

Table 13.  
Record of work under Orthopaedic Scheme during the years 1944 and 1945.

	Tuberculous Cases		Maternity and Child Welfare Cases		Non-tubercular School Children	
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
Number of cases on the Register, 1st January .....	20	17	121	161	261	228
Number of new cases seen during the year .....	3	5	122	91	131	109
Number of old cases seen during the year .....	20	17	121	161	261	228
Number who attended for consultation only .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number discharged cured or improved .....	—	—	29	44	80	72
Number discharged showing no material improvement .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number ceased to attend, over age, etc. ....	6	4	39	66	83	74
Cases transferred to Education Account .....	—	—	13	—	—	—
Cases transferred to Tuberculosis Account .....	—	—	1	2	1	—
Number of cases remaining under treatment at end of the year .....	17	18	161	140	228	191
Attendances to see Orthopaedic Surgeon .....	45	52	279	318	584	640
Attendances for intermediate treatment .....	74	107	380	466	4572	4202
Visits to Homes by Orthopaedic Nurse .....	276	284	77	35	76	52
Cases treated in Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital : Myrtle Street .....	—	—	—	—	3	3
Heswall .....	—	—	1	1	1	1
Cases treated in Leasowe Open-Air Hospital for Children .....	7	9	—	—	1	2
Cases treated in Royal Southern Hospital .....	3	—	—	—	—	3
Cases treated in Maternity and Child Welfare Hospital .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases treated in Eccleston Hall Sanatorium .....	8	7	—	—	—	—
Total number of days of Institutional Treatment .....	2895	3508	282	252	419	639



Table 14.

Defects treated under Orthopaedic Scheme during 1944 and 1945.

Defect	Tuberculous Cases		Maternity and Child Welfare Cases		Non-tubercular School Children	
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
Infantile Paralysis .....	—	—	2	1	20	19
Other forms of Paralysis.....	—	—	4	3	23	18
Rickets .....	—	—	61	41	45	38
Congenital deformities .....	—	—	20	9	27	29
Acquired foot deformities .....	—	—	75	63	133	135
Traumatism .....	—	—	—	1	13	22
Perthes Disease .....	—	—	—	—	10	14
Arthritis .....	—	—	1	1	1	1
Osteomyelitis .....	—	—	—	—	1	1
Postural defects .....	—	—	3	4	84	52
Miscellaneous .....	—	—	18	5	32	2
Tuberculosis :						
(a) Spine .....	7	9	—	—	—	—
(b) Hip .....	7	9	—	—	—	—
(c) Knee .....	3	4	—	—	—	—
(d) Ankle .....	2	2	—	—	—	—
(e) Others .....	4	4	—	—	—	—
(f) Crippling due to old lesions .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total .....	23	28	184	128	389	331

X.—WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

There were 215 Blind Persons on the Blind Register for St. Helens on 1st January, 1944. During 1945 the number increased by 4 to 219. The following is an analysis of the cases on the register at the 31st December each year.

Age distribution :—		1944	1945
Age 0—4 years .....		—	1
5—15 „ .....		9	6
16—20 „ .....		7	11
21—49 „ .....		49	45
50—69 „ .....		75	78
70— „ .....		75	78
Total .....		215	219



Educational and occupational distribution :—	1944	1945
Infant .....	—	1
Education—At school .....	6	3
Not at school .....	3	3
Employment—Employed (Workshops or Home Workers Scheme) .....	22	24
Employed (Working on own account) .....	10	8
Under training .....	8	7
Not training but trainable .....	2	1
Unemployable .....	163	172
Trained, but unemployed .....	1	—

All provision for the care and welfare of the local blind—with the exception of that of blind children under two years of age, and the education of children of school age and vocational training—is undertaken on behalf of the Corporation by the St. Helens and District Society for the Welfare of the Blind.

## XI.—POOR LAW MEDICAL RELIEF.

By agreement with the Lancashire County Council, cases requiring institutional treatment are admitted to the County Hospital, Whiston, or to the Whiston Institution. During 1944, 627 patients were admitted to the Hospital and 264 to the Institution. For the year 1945 the corresponding figures were 546 admissions to the Hospital and 362 to the Institution.

For outdoor medical relief the town is divided into five medical relief districts for each of which there is a part-time District Medical Officer. During the 12 months ending 31st March, 1944, 406 medical orders were issued and there was an average of 293 persons on the permanent medical relief list. During the 12 months ending 31st March, 1945, 311 medical orders were issued and 298 persons were on the permanent medical relief list. During the same periods the number of prescriptions completed by chemists in connection with the treatment of these cases was 6,418 and 6,101 respectively.

Dental cases are treated at the Council's Dental Clinic, and the following statement summarises the number of Public Assistance Committee cases dealt with at that Clinic during the years 1944 and 1945 :—

	1944	1945
Cases treated .....	59	48
Dentures supplied .....	22	14
Dentures repaired .....	6	1

Cases with eye diseases or defects are treated by the Ophthalmic Surgeon at either the St. Helens Hospital or the Providence Hospital.

## XII.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.**—The municipal abattoir remains in sole use by the Ministry of Food, but the inspection and supervision of all meat at the abattoir continues to be carried out by the Corporation's Superintendent, who is a qualified meat inspector. Table 16 gives the result of such inspection.

The agreements with the St. Helens Retail Butchers' Buying Committee and the North Western Wholesale Meat Supply Association Limited, for the use of the Cold Stores at the Abattoir, were continued throughout both years.



Table 16.

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AT PUBLIC ABATTOIR—YEARS 1944 AND 1945.

	Cattle excluding cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep and Lambs		Pigs	
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
Number killed .....	692	1444	5881	5056	919	1679	6286	12701	809	856
Number inspected .....	692	1444	5881	5057*	919	1683*	6286	12710*	809	856
Condemned :—										
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis :—										
(i) Whole carcasses condemned .....	2	1	47	35	19	30	6	12	10	7
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	187	501	1738	1378	1	—	731	1593	161	86
(iii) Percentage of number inspected affected with disease .....	27.3%	34.7%	30.3%	27.9%	2.1%	1.7%	11.7%	12.6%	21.1%	10.9%
(b) Tuberculosis :—										
(i) Whole carcasses condemned .....	5	13	226	214	3	5	—	—	1	2
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	40	154	2726	2465	10	5	—	—	50	44
(iii) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.5%	11.5%	50.1%	52.9%	1.4%	0.5%	—	—	6.3%	5.3%

\* Of these numbers one cow, four calves, and nine sheep and lambs, killed elsewhere, were brought to the abattoir for inspection purposes.

In addition to the Public Abattoir there is one private slaughterhouse licensed in the Borough for the slaughter of pigs only, but owing to the present operation of the scheme for the control of meat and livestock its use has been temporarily discontinued.

Licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, were renewed in 1944 to 24 slaughtermen employed at the Public Abattoir and to 25 such slaughtermen in 1945.



The number of premises registered under Section 127 of the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, for the preparation or manufacture of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved meat, fish or other food was at the end of 1944 164, and at the end of 1945 the number was 143.

During 1944, 2,198 visits were made by Inspectors to shops, stalls and other places where food is prepared or stored, and in 144 instances minor offences against various Acts and Orders were discovered and 73 nuisances or defects found.

During 1945, 4,192 visits of inspection were made, and 174 minor offences discovered and 83 nuisances or defects found.

The following are the total quantities of various classes of foodstuffs which were condemned at the abattoir or in shops, etc., owing to being diseased or unsound :—

	1944	1945
	lbs.	lbs.
Meat .....	333,050	311,747
Canned Goods .....	4,298	4,063
Fruit .....	25	82
Fish .....	168	548
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs .....	941	1,346
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals .....	338,482	317,786
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.**—During 1944, 6 infringements, and during 1945 7 infringements of these Regulations were found. These mainly referred to premises requiring whitewashing or with unsuitable receptacles for trimmings and refuse. In all instances the unsatisfactory conditions were remedied after service of notice.

### MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS.

**Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations, 1926-1943.**—The number of persons and premises on the register at the end of each year was :—

	1944	1945
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cowkeepers and wholesale and retail purveyors of milk	7	7
Cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors of milk .....	1	—
Cowkeepers and retail purveyors of milk .....	7	7
Purveyors of milk .....	312	300
Cowsheds and Dairies .....	54	45

During 1944 a total of 583 visits and during 1945 551 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors to these premises.

No legal proceedings were instituted during either year, but 60 infringements during 1944, and 29 infringements of these Regulations during 1945 were dealt with by verbal or written notices. These related mainly to premises requiring lime-washing or to lack of cleanliness.



**Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1943.**—The following licences were granted under these Regulations :—

	1944	1945
Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in respect of the establishment at which the milk is produced and bottled .....	1	1
Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Accredited" in respect of the establishment at which the milk is produced and bottled .....	5	6
Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" in respect of the establishment in which the process of pasteurising is carried on and in respect of any shop or other establishment from which the milk is sold .....	1	1
Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" from an establishment (not being the establishment at which the milk is produced and bottled) .....	2	3
Licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" in respect of establishments (not being establishments at which the process of Pasteurising is carried on) .....	7	8

No fees are charged by the Council in respect of licences granted under these Regulations.

**Biological Examination of Milk.**—In the routine examination of milk supplies 86 samples in 1944 and 85 in 1945 were examined by guinea-pig inoculation for the presence of tubercle bacilli. Positive evidence of tubercle bacilli was found in 1.1% of the samples in 1944 and 5.8% in 1945, but in 19 instances in 1944 and 3 instances in 1945 the guinea-pigs died too soon for definite diagnoses to be made.

**Bacteriological Examination of Milk.**—During 1944, in addition to the samples of milk taken for examination for tubercle bacilli, 127 samples were also taken for examination for bacterial count and the presence of coliform bacilli or for the methylene blue reduction tests.

The results of these examinations show that of 6 samples of tuberculin tested milk, one sample (16.6%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue test required by the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, but no samples contained bacillus coli in 1/100th millilitre. Of 22 samples of accredited milk 2 (9.0%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue test and in 4 samples (18.1%) bacillus coli was found in 1/100th millilitre or less.

Of 8 samples of ungraded milk 2 (25%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue test and 6 (75%) contained bacillus coli in 1/100th millilitre.

Of 44 samples of pasteurised milk 3 (6.8%) contained bacteria in excess of 100,000 per millilitre, and, therefore, failed to comply with the standard set for such samples. 47 samples of milk were also examined for the Methylene Blue (30 minutes) test. Of these, 5 (10.6%) failed to pass this test.

During 1945, in addition to the samples of milk taken for examination for tubercle bacilli, 151 samples were also taken for examination for bacterial count and the presence of coliform bacilli or for the methylene blue reduction tests.



The results of these examinations show that of 5 samples of tuberculin tested milk one sample (20%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue test required by the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, and one sample (20%) contained bacillus coli in 1/100th millilitre. Of 16 samples of accredited milk 3 (18.7%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue test and in one sample (6.2%) bacillus coli was found in 1/100th millilitre or less.

Of 3 samples of ungraded milk 2 (66.6%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue test and 2 (66.6%) contained bacillus coli in 1/100th millilitre.

Of 58 samples of pasteurised milk, 7 (12.0%) contained bacteria in excess of 100,000 per millilitre and, therefore, failed to comply with the standard set for such samples. 69 samples of milk were also examined for the methylene blue (30 minutes) test. Of these, 5 (7.2%) failed to pass this test.

**Examination of Milk for the Presence of Phosphatase.**—48 samples were examined during 1944 for the presence of phosphatase, and 69 in 1945. In 2 samples in 1944 the Analyst reported that the milk had not been properly pasteurised, or had suffered admixture with raw milk. During 1945, in all cases the samples were reported by the Analyst to have been sufficiently heat-treated.

**Milk-in-Schools Scheme.**—All milk supplied to schools is carefully supervised by the Sanitary Staff and frequent samples are taken for chemical analysis, examination for bacterial contamination, and examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli. The results of these examinations were as follows :—

	1944	1945
1. Samples taken for chemical analysis .....	327	337
Number reported below standard .....	1	—
2. Samples examined for bacteriological cleanliness .....	43	40
Number reported to be unsatisfactory .....	7	7
3. Samples examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli	12	12
Number in which tubercle bacilli was found .....	—	—

The chemical analysis of the above samples is mainly carried out by means of the Gerber Test at the Department's own laboratory, and only in doubtful cases are samples examined by the Public Analyst.

**Ice Cream Premises.**—The following are the particulars at the end of each year of registrations under the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, of manufacturers and vendors of Ice Cream and the premises used by them :—

	1944	1945
Manufacturers and Vendors .....	31	35
Vendors only .....	110	110
Premises for manufacture and sale .....	31	35
Premises for sale only .....	110	114

Owing to the restrictions placed on the sale of ice cream, only 11 visits of inspection were made during 1944, but this was increased to 198 visits during 1945.



## FOOD AND DRUGS.

**Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**—During 1944, 280 formal samples and 123 informal samples of various foods and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst, and 21 (5.2%) were reported to be adulterated. In 1945, 309 formal samples and 66 informal samples were taken for analysis and 14 (3.7%) reported as adulterated.

The percentage of milk samples reported as adulterated during these years was 3.5 in 1944 and 2.4 in 1945.

No legal proceedings were instituted during either year under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, but warnings were given by the Health Committee in the case of the following formal samples found to be adulterated :—

Year 1944.

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>Adulteration.</i>
233	Powdered Gelatine	Contaminated with 2.5 parts per million of arsenic.
271	Influenza Mixture	Contained three times as much nitric acid as stated on the label.
315	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6 per cent.
319	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3 per cent.
333	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 10 per cent.
334	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 10 per cent.
382	Lard	Contained 0.95 per cent. of water.
424	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 11.7 per cent.
467	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3 per cent.
529	Golden Raising Powder	Deficient in available carbon dioxide to the extent of 25.0 per cent.
530	Baking Powder	Deficient in available carbon dioxide to the extent of 27.0 per cent.
551	Beef Sausages	Contained sulphur dioxide to the extent of 83 parts per million. Not labelled in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations.
553	Pork Sausages	Contained sulphur dioxide to the extent of 96 parts per million. Not labelled in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations.



Year 1945.

*Sample*

*No.*

*Article.*

*Adulteration.*

650	Baking Powder	Deficient in available carbon dioxide to the extent of 39%.
658	British Sherry	Deficient in alcohol to the extent of 21% of the minimum quantity contained in wine of the sherry type.
678	Mustard	Deficient in allyl isothiocyanate to the extent of 85%.
716	Milk (Sterilized)	Contained not less than 3.5% extraneous water.
679	Sweet Almond Oil B.P.	Oil not derived from sweet almonds.
814	Milk	Deficient in milk fat to the extent of 16%.
826	Milk	Deficient in milk fat to the extent of 3.3%.
887	Tincture of Iodine	Deficient in iodine to the extent of 11%.
948	Golden Raising Powder	Deficient in available carbon dioxide to the extent of 16.6%.
949	Baking Powder	Deficient in available carbon dioxide to the extent of 40%.

**The Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.**  
**The Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.**—No infringements of any of these Regulations were found during either year.

**The Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations.**—All samples submitted to the Public Analyst under the Food and Drugs Act are also examined for the presence of preservatives. Infringements of the Preservatives in Food Regulations were found on two occasions during 1944 and on one occasion during 1945. In all cases these consisted of selling sausages containing preservatives which were not labelled in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations.

**Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.**—10 informal samples of fertilisers and feeding stuffs were taken and analysed during 1944 and 8 informal samples during 1945. One sample of nitrate of soda taken in 1944 was found to be deficient in nitrogen to the extent of 5.4%. This deficiency was attributed by the Agricultural Analyst to the presence of water absorbed from the atmosphere. The attention of the vendor was drawn to this deficiency.

**Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933.**—At the end of 1944 there were 27 persons entered in the Local Authority's list of persons entitled to sell poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List. The number of premises concerned was 52. At the end of 1945 the number of persons was 29, and premises numbered 56.

A total of 86 visits were paid to these premises in 1944 and 85 visits in 1945. 6 infringements of the Act were found during 1944, and the 3 vendors concerned were warned by the Health Committee.

**Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.**—No infringements of this Act were found during either year.



**BAKEHOUSES.**—In 1944 there were 103 bakehouses in St. Helens, with mechanical power employed in 59 of them. In 1945 the number of bakehouses was 91, with mechanical power in 47 instances.

During 1944, 250 visits of inspection were made and 58 defects found. 55 of these were remedied before the end of the year.

During 1945 visits of inspection numbered 361 with 55 defects found, of which 52 were remedied before the end of the year.

**DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS—Tuberculosis Order, 1938.**—During 1944 no animals from dairy herds in the Borough were slaughtered under this Order, but 5 animals were slaughtered in 1945.

**Anthrax.**— 2 cases in 1944 and 1 case in 1945 of suspected Anthrax were reported, but in no instance was the disease confirmed.

**Swine Fever.**—13 cases in 1944 and 21 cases in 1945 of suspected Swine Fever were reported. In no instance was the disease confirmed.

**Markets, Sales and Lairs Order, 1925.**—There is one market, situate between 5 and 21 Parr Street, licensed for the sale of animals in St. Helens.

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### **XIII.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

**WATER.** — The water supply is from deep wells and boreholes in new red sandstone at Eccleston Hill, Whiston, Knowsley, Kirkby and Melling, supplemented by a supply from the Liverpool Corporation Rivington Main, and water from red sandstone above the coal measures at Collins Green. The water from the last-mentioned source is subjected to chlorination and high pressure filtration before distribution.

The water from the deep wells and from Collins Green is hard, the average hardness being 22.6° and 27° respectively, and the hardness of both is reduced to approximately 10.5° by softening processes before distribution. The water from the Liverpool Corporation Rivington Main is soft and is blended with hard water before distribution, so that in its ultimate distribution it also approximates to 10.5°.

There were no new sources of public water supply during either year.

The quality of the water has remained satisfactory during both years, and the supply to all parts of the Borough is reasonably adequate.

Bacteriological examinations of the water were made at regular intervals at the sources of supply and at the reservoirs prior to distribution into supply, in all cases after chlorination.



Of the 252 samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year 1945, 227 were classified as Class 1, 11 Class 2, 4 Class 3, and 10 Class 4.

65 samples were taken during 1945 for chemical analysis, and of these 62 were classed as satisfactory. One sample from the Whiston source of supply was classed as satisfactory, subject to a class 1 bacteriological condition. Two samples from the Rivington main were reported upon as being high in free ammonia content.

None of the water supplied is liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

The supply is on the constant system. With only one or two exceptions, which receive their supplies from stand-pipes, water is supplied directly to all the houses in the Borough from the Corporation's water mains.

All supplies are chlorinated before distribution.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**—The supervision of the pollution of rivers and streams in St. Helens is now carried out by the Lancashire Rivers Board.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**—There have been no important extensions of sewers during the two years under review.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**—No pail closets or privy middens were converted to the fresh water carriage system during either 1944 or 1945. It is estimated that there are still 105 pail closets and 282 privy middens serving 104 and 291 houses, respectively. There are also 43 pail closets and 4 privy middens at various schools and works.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.**—The removal and disposal of house refuse is carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department. All refuse other than salvage is disposed of by tipping, either at the Watery Lane or Kurtz tip.

**SMOKE ABATEMENT.**—As in previous war years no observations of smoke emission were carried out during 1944, but during 1945 15 informal observations of industrial works were made. In 10 of these black smoke was emitted for more than two minutes during the half hour period of observation. Contact was made with the firms concerned with a view to diminution of the nuisance.

For the measurement of atmospheric pollution a deposit gauge situated in the yard of the School Clinic, Claughton Street, continued in operation during both years.

**FACTORIES.**—During 1944 5 defects were reported by H.M. Inspector of Factories, but as the result of inspections by the Sanitary Department 11 instances of want of cleanliness and 9 instances of unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences were dealt with.

During 1945 3 defects were reported by H.M. Inspector of Factories, and in addition 5 instances of want of cleanliness and 15 instances of unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences were dealt with as a result of sanitary inspections.



**SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**—The total number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors was 38,496 in 1944 and 27,056 in 1945. The nature and purpose of these visits is shown in Table 18.

**Table 18.**

Number and nature of inspections during 1944 and 1945.

	1944	1945
a) Number of Complaints Investigated :—		
1. Housing Defects .....	1,342	1,661
2. Choked and Defective Drains .....	624	780
3. Emissions of Smoke .....	2	1
4. Accumulations of Offensive Matter .....	—	5
5. Miscellaneous .....	215	195
b) Inspections re Sanitation and Food Supply :—		
Dwellinghouses inspected .....	1,861	2,043
Common Lodging Houses .....	101	69
Houses-let-in-Lodgings .....	61	—
Common yards, back roads and passages .....	700	855
Horse Manure Middensteads .....	84	234
Fried Fish Shops .....	248	477
Fishmongers' and Greengrocers' Shops .....	315	736
Butchers' Shops .....	388	656
Grocers' Shops .....	587	906
Ice Cream Premises .....	11	198
Shops Act, 1934 .....	253	534
Public Houses, Beer Houses, etc. ....	107	256
Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933 .....	86	85
Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941 .....	61	80
Factories (with mechanical power) .....	38	37
Factories (without mechanical power) .....	22	26
Bakehouses .....	250	361
Offensive Trades .....	42	71
Food Preparing and Storing Places .....	250	531
Places of Public Entertainment .....	55	63
Tents, Vans and Sheds .....	129	174
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops .....	583	551
Testing Drains .....	90	69
Ashes Receptacles .....	81	94
Samples of milk and other foodstuffs for chemical analysis .....	730	687
Samples of milk for bacteriological and biological examination .....	261	305
Samples of water procured for bacteriological examination .....	10	8
Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders .....	—	79
Enquiries re Brokers' Licences .....	2	18
Visits to Works in Progress .....	12,491	14,584
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and Infestation Order, 1943 :—		
(a) Surface Inspections .....	549	—
(b) Inspections and treatment of sewers and manholes .....	11,848	—
Pigstyes .....	86	59
Miscellaneous visits.....	1,692	1,574
Additional visits arising out of the present emergency .....	21	121
Rag Flock Acts, 1911 to 1928 .....	16	—
Housing Survey .....	4,387	616
Inspection of premises in connection with the control of Civil Building .....	—	687
Smoke Observations .....	—	15
	<hr/> 38,496 <hr/>	<hr/> 27,056 <hr/>

Arising out of these visits in 1944, 5,634 preliminary notices and 1,567 statutory notices were served, and in 4,191 instances these had been complied with before the end of the year. In addition, 245 defects found were reported to other departments of the Corporation for attention. Further, of the 624 complaints of choked drains made to the Sanitary Department, 379 were freed from obstruction



by a member of the Staff of that Department, thus obviating the necessity of serving notices upon the owners.

During 1945 the corresponding figures were 6,658 preliminary notices and 2,248 statutory notices served, and 5,279 complied with before the end of the year. 465 defects were referred to other Corporation departments and of 780 choked drains reported 428 were freed by a member of the Sanitary Department.

During 1944 legal proceedings were instituted against a property owner in respect of seven houses for failure to comply with statutory notices served under Sections 39, 45 and 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The Magistrates' Court made Nuisance Orders in respect of the notices served under Section 93 and fines totalling £22 were imposed in respect of the remaining notices.

Further legal proceedings against this owner were instituted for not complying with the Nuisance Orders made by the Magistrates' Court and the Statutory Notices served under Sections 39 and 45. On this occasion fines totalling £58 were imposed.

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## PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.

**Offensive Trades.**—There are 4 offensive trades in the Borough, comprising 3 tripe boilers and 1 rag and bone dealer. During 1944, 42 visits and during 1945, 71 visits were paid to premises of this nature.

**Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.**—So far as was known to the Department there were no tents, vans or sheds used in the Borough for human habitation during the years 1944 and 1945.

**Camping Sites.**—There are no sites in St. Helens used as camping sites, nor have any licences been granted by the Council authorising the use of any land or moveable dwellings for camping purposes.

**Houses-let-in-Lodgings.**—During 1944 and 1945 there were 5 premises known to the Department to be used as Houses-let-in-Lodgings. 61 visits in 1944 and no visits in 1945 were paid to these premises.

**Common Lodging Houses.**—The number of premises registered in 1944 was 5, and in 1945 3. 101 visits of inspection were made in 1944 and 69 visits in 1945.

During 1944 legal proceedings were taken against the keeper of one of these houses for various infringements of the Byelaws relating to Common Lodging Houses, and fines totalling £7/0/0 were imposed. The premises concerned were subsequently discontinued for use as a common lodginghouse.

**Byelaws with respect to Nuisances.**—These byelaws prove very effective for the control of pig-keeping. At the end of each year there were 55 persons known to be engaged in the keeping of pigs.



**OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS.—Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.**

**Surface Infestations.**—Since the completion of the survey of surface infestations referred to in my previous Annual Report, 139 further visits of inspection were made in 1944 and 475 in 1945. The following are the numbers of lands and premises found to be infested as a result of those inspections :—

	1944	1945
Rat infestations .....	77	99
Mouse infestations .....	14	25

In accordance with the direction received in November, 1943, from the Ministry of Food, the work of remedying surface infestations was commenced early in 1944 and the following are the numbers of lands and premises cleared of infestations during the years mentioned :—

	1944	1945
<b>Rat Infestations.</b>		
Number dealt with by Department .....	109	50
Number dealt with by Occupiers .....	101	49
	<hr/> 210	<hr/> 99
<b>Mouse Infestations.</b>		
Number dealt with by Department .....	38	25
Number dealt with by Occupiers .....	46	14
	<hr/> 84	<hr/> 39

**Sewer Infestations.**—Consequent upon the direction received from the Ministry of Food, dated March 24th, 1944, requiring the Council to remedy infestation by rats in sewers, a survey of the Borough was undertaken during that year and this revealed that there were 2,818 foul and surface water sewer manholes.

The work of the preparation of the manholes for baiting purposes was commenced on April 24th, 1944.

For the purpose of treatment the Borough was divided into nine separate areas. Each of these areas has either its own separate sewerage system or the sewerage system has been effectively disconnected or trapped off from other areas by reason of the connecting sewer being surcharged. Each area was, therefore, dealt with separately and the actual treatment was thereby greatly facilitated.

Squads varying from one to six in number were employed, each squad consisting of :—

- (1) One operator-recorder.
- (2) One labourer.
- (3) One sewer-man.

The period of treatment extended for eleven weeks from June 19th, 1944, to August 31st, 1944.

The following are the summaries of the results of the first and second treatments :—

**First Treatment.**

No. of manholes treated .....	2614
No. of "poison takes" recorded .....	321

**Second Treatment.**

No. of manholes treated .....	995
No. of "poison takes" recorded .....	75



As was anticipated little or no infestation was found in those parts of the Borough provided with modern sewerage systems, and exemption from full treatment was granted in a number of instances by the Ministry.

Surface water sewers were without exception found to be free from infestation.

The work of surface and sewer treatment was closely co-ordinated.

**Shops Act, 1934.**—In addition to statutory duties in regard to the ventilation and temperature of shops and the provision of sanitary conveniences, the Sanitary Department in St. Helens also takes responsibility for those provisions of the Act relating to lighting, washing facilities and facilities for the taking of meals.

The number of visits paid to shop premises during 1944 was 253, and during 1945, 534.

**Places of Public Entertainment.**—55 visits were paid in 1944 and 63 visits in 1945 for inspection purposes. The condition of these premises was found to be generally satisfactory.

**Canal Boats.**—There is only one canal within the Borough (the St. Helens Canal) and this has not been used for traffic for a number of years.

**Mortuaries.**—A public mortuary with post-mortem room is maintained behind the Town Hall, and is under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. During 1944, 48 bodies were received into the mortuary, and 34 post-mortem examinations conducted. During 1945, 54 bodies were received into the mortuary and 37 post-mortem examinations conducted.

**Disposal of the Dead.**—There were no alterations from previous years in these arrangements.

**Swimming Baths.**—Indoor swimming baths situate in Boundary Road are maintained by the Corporation. There are two plunge baths, and the method of purification of the water is by means of continuous filtration and chlorination. Three samples of water from these baths were taken by the Sanitary Department for bacteriological examination during 1944 and nine samples during 1945. The results of the examinations showed the water to be satisfactory for bathing purposes.

**Rag Flocks Acts, 1911 and 1918.**—Two samples of rag flock were taken in 1944. One sample was found not to conform with the standard of cleanliness prescribed by the Rag Flock Regulations, 1912, and the vendor was warned by the Health Committee. No samples were taken during 1945.

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#### XIV.—HOUSING.

A statement as to the number of houses erected in St. Helens with or without assistance during the years of 1944 and 1945, together with a summary of the work of the Health Department, in regard to housing, is given in Table 20.



Table 20.

## Housing.

	1944	1945
Number of new houses erected during the year .....	Nil	Nil
—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—		
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	1942	2137
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	14433	16627
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	Nil	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	Nil	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	Nil	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	1931	2019
—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—		
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .....	1386	2010
—Action under statutory powers during the year :—		
A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 .....	Nil	Nil
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	514	867
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners.....	402	534
(b) By Local Authority in defaults of owners .....	Nil	Nil
C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936 .....	Nil	Nil

**SLUM CLEARANCE.**—Owing to war conditions no houses were dealt with under Slum Clearance Schemes in either 1944 or 1945.

**RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS, 1920-1939.**—During 1944, 4 applications were received from tenants for sanitary certificates under these Acts. Certificates were granted in each case. In 1945 3 applications were received and had certificates granted to them. During each year, 1 certificate previously granted was rescinded.

Legal proceedings were instituted during 1944 against the owner of three dwellinghouses for failure to insert in the rent book particulars of the standard rent, contrary to the requirements of the Rent Restrictions Regulations, 1940. The proceedings were dismissed on payment of costs.



**DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS.**

During 1944, 11 Council houses were reported to the Housing Department to be infested with bed bugs. These were treated with liquid insecticide, viz., Zaldecide or Solution D. During 1945, 9 Council houses were dealt with.

16 instances during 1944 and 27 during 1945 of other houses infested with bed bugs also came to the notice of the Sanitary Staff. In these instances the tenants were advised as to the best means of disinfestation, and the premises kept under observation.

No houses or household effects were subjected to fumigation by hydrocyanic acid gas.

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